

**METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR  
PHYSICALLY PATTERNING NONOPERATIONAL  
STRUCTURES OF AN OPTICAL DISC**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Methods and apparatus for using physical synchronization markers during optical disc data acquisition are provided. In accordance with this invention, physical synchronization markers on optical discs and/or disc covers can be used to determine absolute and/or relative positions on the disc or cover and control data acquisition. A method for acquiring data includes detecting at least one physical synchronization marker and reading data in response to detecting the marker.